

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 020157Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3787

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, ID

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM TO VISIT

INDONESIA, SEPTEMBER 5-7

1. AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (LAVETT, ASST SECRETARY, SOUTH EAST ASIA BRANCH) INFORMED EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE AUG 1 THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM WILL VISIT INDONESIA SEPT 5-7, WITH POSSIBILITY HE WILL SPEND SEPT 8 AS REST DAY IN BALI BEFORE RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA.

2. LAVETT NOTED THAT VISIT ESSENTIALLY REPLACES TRIP SCHEDULED IN APRIL, 1974, WHICH WAS CANCELLED DUE TO ONSET OF AUSTRALIAN GENERAL ELECTIONS. MEETING IS ARRANGED AROUND SERIES OF GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO. ONE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IS CERTAIN TO BE ISSUE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDONESIA, ON WHICH AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE. LAVETT COMMENTED THAT AUSTRALIAN GROUPS CRITICAL OF DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDONESIA ARE MOUNTING ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDONESIA, AND UP TO 30 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (OUT OF TOTAL OF 187 IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE), DRAWN FROM BOTH PARTIES BUT

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PARTICULARLY FROM LABOR PARTY, BELONG TO GROUP

PRESSING FOR AMNESTY FOR INDONESIAN PRISONERS. HE SAID THAT PRISONER ISSUE IS ONE INGREDIENT OF TOTAL AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN INDONESIA, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT ELEMENT.

3. LAVETT ADMITTED THAT ARTICLE ON MEETING WHICH APPEARED IN SINAR HARAPAN IN JAKARTA, JULY 28, IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, THOUGH SOME DETAILS REMAIN TO BE CONFIRMED. ARTICLE NOTES MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN WONOSOBO, CENTRAL JAVA, ON SEPTEMBER 6, WITH SUHARTO STAYING AT RESIDENCE OF REGENT OF WONOSOBO, WHILE WHITLAM AND PARTY WILL STAY AT REST HOUSE AT SELOMANIK (ABOUT HALF KILOMETER NORTH OF WONOSOBO). HE SAID THAT WHITLAM WILL PROBABLY MAKE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON TRIP IN PARLIAMENT IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. LAVETT SAID THAT WHITLAM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY JAMES SPIGELMAN (PRINCIPAL PRIVATE ASSISTANT), DAVID WHITE (MEIDA SECRETARY), AND A. D. MCLENNAN (INDONESIAN DESK OFFICER IN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FORMERLY IN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA), PLUS ONE STENOGRAPHER. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF PARTY MAY BE ADDED LATER.

5. COMMENT: VISIT WILL ALSO BE OF INTEREST AS FIRST TIME WHITLAM WILL HAVE LEFT AUSTRALIA SINCE ELECTION OF WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DR. J.F. CAIRNS, WHO WILL BE ACTING PRIME MINISTER DURING WHITLAM'S ABSENCE.
HARROP

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